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themselves. Even the navigation laws of Babylon are not wholly overlooked.

It is doubtless well to be retold the story of the discoveries and explorations of Columbus and his successors, of the rise and fall of Venetian sea power, of the outrageous claims of Spain and Portugal to the sovereignty of the seas based on Papal bulls, and of the commercial and naval rivalries of the Netherlands, Great Britain and France. But these stories have been retold over and over again and in much more attractive form than here presented. Of these matters our author has told us either too much or too little, and the occasional interpretive light thrown upon these events hardly justifies their retelling. It should, however, be pointed out that Chapter VII contains some subject matter not readily accessible elsewhere than in this volume relating to the laws of registry of various countries; and also that Chapter VIII contains some valuable information and shrewd observations on the freedom of navigation on inland waterways.

The Reference Manual, or Part II, should prove extremely useful to students of the law of inland waterways. It includes lists, alphabetically and chronologically arranged, of the international inland and boundary waterways of the world by continental divisions.

Under each river, lake, or canal thus listed are full references to "conventional arrangements and laws regulating the enjoyment of the ancillary uses,—notably participation in the fluvial and lacustrine fisheries and the diversion of waters for power, irrigation, and the maintenance of canals,—together with the agreements governing navigation." The preparation of these lists must have involved an enormous amount of labor.

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*Socialism versus Civilization.* By BORIS L. BRASOL. With introduction by Professor T. N. Carver. (New York: Charles Scribners' Sons. Pp. xxiv, 289.)

*Socialism in Thought and Action.* By HARRY W. LAIDLER. (New York: The Macmillan Company. Pp. xviii, 546.)

These two recent books study socialism from two different points of view and are valuable supplementary volumes. The first is a critique of Marxian Socialism with an evident animus. Sweeping

generalizations abound with here and there such loose statements as the following: "Land and natural resources, such as minerals, electricity, air, water-power, etc., have a definite economic value and also a definite market price no matter whether labor has or has not been applied to them" (p. 62); "This brings us back to the true American conception of equality, which for centuries has proved to be sound, namely, to the *equality of opportunity*. Every citizen may become President. Every citizen may become wealthy" (p. 75). With this author socialism always means socialism of the left, or the radical type.

In the second book, by the secretary of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, is a scholarly presentation of the socialistic indictment of modern society; of socialist theory; of the socialist commonwealth as outlined by various and sometimes opposing schools of thought; of guild socialism and syndicalism. Tendencies toward socialism are sketched and objections discussed. Part II is given to a historical presentation of the socialist movement with a sketch of developments in various countries since 1914.

The contrary viewpoints of these two books is illustrated by the following: Brasol says that Socialism aims at the abolition of private property, the extermination of the capitalistic class, the abolition of the "bourgeois family," the abolition of nationalism and religion. He holds that socialism advocates the forcible and violent overthrow of the existing social order (p. 2). Laidler quotes abundantly to the effect that a large school of socialists do not believe in the abolition of private property (p. 124); that the official attitude of socialists toward religion is that of neutrality (pp. 154-159); that the socialist movement as such has never officially taken any stand concerning the family, but that multitudes of adherents believe that socialism would strengthen the monogamic system (p. 160); that a large wing of socialists are against the use of violent methods in securing their objective (pp. 164-169).

Thus while Brasol's treatise is a valuable criticism of radical socialism, it fails to meet in a convincing way, the issue as raised by Laidler, Spargo, Vandervelde, Rauschenbusch and others, although the constructive proposals given in the last chapter might to some extent at least mitigate the admitted evils of the present system. His suggestion concerning a national institute of production is especially worthy of consideration.

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